

**No. 7-2006 MONTHLY PACIFIC ENSO DISCUSSION FOR MICRONESIA
AND AMERICAN SAMOA**

July 2006

The Pacific ENSO Applications Center (PEAC) disseminated the second quarter 2006 newsletter (refer to <http://lumahai.soest.hawaii.edu/Enso/index.html>). The third quarter Newsletter is being prepared. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated the following in its July 6, 2006 *ENSO Diagnostic Discussion* (refer to <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>): “The current patterns of anomalous ocean temperatures and atmospheric circulation are consistent with ENSO-neutral conditions in the tropical Pacific. Positive SST anomalies expanded eastward during June 2006, with SST anomalies greater than +0.5C observed in most of the equatorial Pacific between 130°E and 140°W.” CPC further observed that: “Low level and upper level winds over the tropical Pacific were near average during the month. The weak residual atmospheric characteristics of La Niña that were apparent in the western North Pacific during June and early in the month (stronger than normal trade winds and a westward displacement of tropical cyclone activity) have disappeared.

Most of the latest climate forecast models predict ENSO-neutral to weak El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific through the end of 2006. However, as the CPC points out, “the spread of these forecasts (ENSO-neutral to weak El Niño) indicates considerable uncertainty in the outlook for late 2006 and early 2007.

Three tropical cyclones (Typhoon Ewiniar, Tropical Storm Bilis, and Tropical Depression 06W) have had some effect on western Micronesia during the past month. These tropical cyclones have developed progressively farther east, and now tropical cyclone development behavior seems to have returned to normal. The tropical cyclone season is over for American Samoa. Sea levels have been slightly higher than normal in Micronesia, but should return to more normal heights as the trade winds weaken. During most of July, the monsoon trough has been active over southern Micronesia, and rainfall has returned to normal over all areas except the extreme northeastern Marshall Islands. Rainfall in American Samoa should remain near normal as the dry season progresses.

PREPARED BY NOAA’S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Coordinated with the Climate Prediction Center and the Pacific ENSO Applications Center.